Type of Aircraft	No. of Aircraft	Average Age (Yrs)
INDIAN AIRLINES		
A-300	3	21.5
A-320	30	11.7
B-737	11	21.6
DO-228	2	17.8
ATR-42 (Leased)	4	8.8
A-300 (Leased)	2	18.4
A-320 (Leased)	7	10.6

(c) Indian Airlines, including its wholly owned subsidiary Alliance Air, earned a cash profit on 50 services and incurred a cash loss on 56 services, on its domestic network during the period from April to September, 2002.

(d) All routes generate cash surplus except Guwahati-Bangkok and some domestic hub and spoke operations which connect interior airports to international flights from main gateway airports.

Purchase of aircrafts from Ilyshin Avaition

4657 SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India is considering an offer from Ilyushin Aviation of Russia for its fleet expansion;

(b) whether Air India is still undecided on the earlier offers of Boeing and Airbus Industries;

(c) whether the Ilyushin has offered a comparably version of A-340 (Airbus) and B-777 (Boeing) at a price cheaper by 30%; and

(d) whether Ilyushin aircrafts are in service with any international carrier other than Aeroflot of Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No offer has been received from Ilyushin Aviation Company of Russia for evaluation of its Aircraft.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Amongst the Airlines operating passenger services to/from India, apart from Aeroflot, Uzbekistan Airways has deployed IL 62 Aircraft on the sector Tashkent/Delhi.

Losses in Regional Rural Banks

4658. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the country are running at loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to revamp the working of the RRBs; and

(d) if so, the details of the measures initiated therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND RAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (d) During the financial year 2001-02, out of 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), only 29 RRBs incurred losses. Low profitability in RRBs is due to increasing cost and decreasing spread, high non performing assets, erosion in the capital base etc Several steps have been initiated/taken to strengthen and revitalize the RRBs which include —

(i) Enhancement in share capital;

(ii) recapitalisation support of Rs.1094.21 crore to 187 RRBs;

(iii) diversification of business portfolio and activities;

(iv) deregulation of interest rate structure.

(v) introduction of prudential norms covering asset classification and provision norms;

(vi) measures to reduce NPAs;

(vii) one time settlement scheme to improve recoveries;

(viii) rationalisation of branch net-work etc.